

Barking champs

BARKING clinched the Isthmian League title for the first time in their 99 year history on Thursday night when their closest rivals Enfield could only draw 1-1 at home to Woking.

Before that game, Enfield were the only team capable of catching Barking but now they are even in danger of forfeiting second spot after their 1-0 defeat at Woking on Saturday. So ends the reign of Enfield, champions for the past three seasons.

Wycombe, who entertained Barking last night, face a long trip to Tilbury tonight (Tuesday) hoping for a win that would keep up their chances of finishing fifth in the table — the highest position they can now realistically attain.

Blues round off their league programme on Saturday with a Premier Division match at home to Sutton United.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (UP TO APRIL 28)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barking	40	27	8	5	87	48	89
Dulwich	40	21	13	6	69	36	76
Enfield	38	21	9	8	64	33	72
Slough	41	20	12	9	59	41	72
Dagenham	39	22	6	11	75	60	72
Wycombe	39	18	9	11	55	38	65
Woking	40	17	14	9	75	64	65
Croydon	41	18	9	14	59	50	63
Hendon	41	15	14	12	52	46	59
Tooting	40	15	13	12	51	50	58
Leatherh'd	40	16	9	15	53	41	57
Sutton	40	16	8	16	59	49	56
Tilbury	41	13	11	17	60	75	50
Boreham	41	13	10	18	48	64	49
Hitchin	42	12	11	19	59	71	47
Walth'mst'w	40	13	6	21	55	67	45
Hayes	42	9	18	15	45	58	45
Carsh'ton	40	10	15	15	47	64	45
Oxford	42	12	7	23	50	80	43
Steins	41	6	16	19	40	62	34
Leytons'ne	42	8	7	27	36	75	31
Kings't nian	42	3	15	24	35	72	24

Blues make no mistake this time!

By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe Wands 3, Hungerford 1

AFTER that close shave in the first match when they were only saved by a last minute penalty, Wycombe Wanderers clinched the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup for the second successive year with a hard fought victory in the replayed final at Slough on Thursday night.

Considering they had to scrape the barrel to get a side together for their third match in four days Wanderers showed great fighting character to come back and win after giving away a shock goal in the very first minute of the game.

Wycombe's experience told in the end although the Blues had to endure a torrid spell of pressure for the first half hour of the second half before making sure with a

third goal five minutes from time.

So it was a relieved skipper Howard Kennedy who went up to receive the cup from Berks and Bucks official Lionel Gibbs, much to the delight of the several hundred Wycombe fans.

With Steve Long having broken his nose and Bobby Davies taken ill on the day of the match, Wycombe's resources were stretched to the limit and the brave Alan Phillips was forced to play at right back, despite a shoulder injury suffered at Woking two days earlier.

In addition John Maskell was unable to play because of personal reasons so youngster Chris Way came in to play a vital role in the side's victory.

But goalkeeper Way was not too happy in the first minute, when a piece of slack play by Steve Hardwick left him stranded

and allowed Hungerford to take the lead.

Under no pressure at all Hardwick sent a back pass to Way that never reached its destination. Paul Duffy won the ball in a challenge with the keeper and Andy Young had the simple task of firing the ball into the literally empty net for his third goal of the tie.

However, nine minutes later Blues were back on level terms from their first corner. Terry Scott sent it to the near post where Hardwick atoned with a neat back header across the goalmouth and Dylan Evans had the simple task of nodding it in.

The Hungerford heads went down and with Stewart Atkins looking particularly sharp and Dylan Evans using his pace in mid-field, Blues dictated the rest of the half. Their pressure was

rewarded in the 39th minute when Atkins took advantage of indecision in the Hungerford ranks to give Blues the lead with a left foot shot into the roof of the net.

Another goal then would have sealed the match and it appeared to be coming when Wycombe forced six successive corners just before the break. But Hungerford to their credit did not crack.

The Berkshire side made up for what they lacked in experience with total full blooded commitment in the second half and rushed their opponents into errors.

Spectacular

They created several good chances, the best of which fell to Young, who had only the goalkeeper to beat after running on to a through ball, but Way made a spectacular save to keep them at bay.

Duffy fired inches wide with a free-kick and then Hungerford appeals for a penalty were turned down when Nigel Loveless fell inside the penalty area when in a threatening position.

However, Wycombe weathered the storm and Scott put the result beyond doubt five minutes from time with their third goal after a break and cross by Kennedy on the left.

Referee Mr Mangan booked both Kennedy and Young for tackles in the second half.

Wycombe: C. Way; A. Phillips, P. Birdseye, K. Mead, S. Hardwick, D. Evans, S. Atkins (sub: G. Pearce 58 mins), M. Hollifield, L. Reed, H. Kennedy, T. Scott.
Hungerford: S. Crocker; D. Reilly, C. Gwynn, W. Angell, P. Duffy, D. McMahon (capt), M. Farmiloe, N. Loveless, A. Young, J. Ashton, I. Farmiloe. Subs: K. Curtis and S. Eigheten (not used).

Referee: J. G. Mangan (Slough).
Half-time 2-1. Scorers: Wycombe — Evans (10 mins), Atkins (39), Scott (85); Hungerford — Young (1).



'We won the Cup.' Wycombe celebrate with champagne after beating Hungerford on Thursday night.